

**EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
January 20, 2004**

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Conservatives Urge President Bush to Offset Cost of New Initiatives

WASHINGTON, DC - The Republican Study Committee (RSC), a caucus of more than 90 House conservatives, urged the President to offset the cost of the new initiatives proposed in the State of the Union Address with real spending reductions.

“Tonight, the President put forward many worthwhile new proposals,” said RSC Chairman Sue Myrick (R-NC). “The President has indicated that he will offset some of the cost of these new initiatives with other spending reductions. Conservatives believe that the entire cost of new initiatives ought to be offset with other reductions in spending. Certainly there are old and obsolete things that the government does that we could stop,” continued Myrick.

“In light of the current deficit, offsetting new spending is the only responsible thing to do. We will work with the President and the Congressional Leadership to offset new spending and eliminate other wasteful spending,” Myrick concluded.

Members of the Republican Study Committee will be meeting later this week to discuss strategies for reducing the deficit and controlling spending.

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